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ROBERTS AND  
MITCHELL FAMILIES

R. R. Knight





ROBERTS FAMILY

RAY H. KNIGHT, M. D.  
3245 - PARK AVE.  
MINNEAPOLIS 7, MINN

1204377

Part of this information was obtained by Ray Roberts Knight in Aug. 1935 from records in the Office of County Register, Jonesboro, Washington County, Tennessee. This area was part of North Carolina in earlier years.

The Roberts and Mitchell families apparently lived in northeastern North Carolina in Colonial times. There were many intermarriages then and later. Some branches moved together into Illinois Territory about 1835, settling in the neighborhood of the present Charleston, Illinois.

The early descent in the Roberts line is not entirely clear. Clues to the parentage of Richard Roberts may lie in the following land grants:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA - No. 1010

-----in consideration of the sum of fifty shillings for every hundred acres hereby granted paid into our Treasury by Reuben Roberts have given, granted-----a tract of land containing fifty acres---in our County of Washington on both sides of Dry Run, the waters of Watagale joining the land of John Ashers, beginning at a Spanish Oak---this 27th day of November in the 17th year of the Independence and in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety two-----

By His Excellcy. Commd.  
I. Glasgow, Secretary

(Signed)

Alex Martin

-----

The following Land Patent suggests the possibility that Edmund Roberts may have been the father of Richard Roberts and that he may have settled in Washington County, then a part of the State of North Carolina, nearly twenty years before the birth of the son.

Book I - page 28

State of North Carolina - County of Washington

To all to whom these presents shall come greeting knowledge that for and in consideration of the sum of fifty shillings for every hundred acres hereby granted paid into our treasury by Edmund Roberts have given granted and by these presents due given grant unto the said Edmund Roberts a tract of land containing three hundred acres lying----including the plantation where the said Edmund Roberts now lives as by the plot here unto annexed doth appear together with all woods, waters, mines, minerals, hereditaments and appertances to the said land belonging or appertaining to hold to the said Edmund Roberts his heirs and assigns forever yielding and paying to us such sums of money yearly or otherwise as our General assembly from time to time may direct provided always that the said Edmund Roberts shall cause this grant to be registered in the Register's Office of our said County of Washington within twelve months from the date hereof otherwise the same shall be void and of no effect.





In testimony whereof we have caused our great seal to be here unto affixed.

WITNESS: - Alexander Martin, Esquire and Governor, Captain General and Commander and Chief at Fairfield the twenty fourth day of October in the Seventh year of our Independence and in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two by his Excellencies command. I. Glasgow, Sec.

The next several records indicate that the children of Richard Roberts living on Jan. 4, 1808 were -- Rachel Owen, Thomas Owen, Erasmus James, John Wesley, and Harriet. It is probable they were listed in order of birth. The recurrence of the name "Owen" in the first two suggest that this may have been the surname of their mother. Thomas O. in a later document speaks of "my stepmother, Nacky Roberts". The date of death of Richard is not given and no will was filed.

Book 10 - page 135

Richard Roberts to His Heirs

Be it known to whom it may concern that I, Richard Roberts of the County of Washington and State of Tennessee, have for love and good will I owe my children and for divers other good considerations me there unto moving have given granted and made over unto my well beloved children to wit unto my daughter, Rachael O. Roberts, I give my negro Fannie being in lieu of a negro named Nelson now recorded in the name of said Rachel; to my son, Thomas Owen Roberts, I give my negro, Ceaser; to my son, Erasmus James Roberts, I give my negro Nelson; to my son, John Wesley Roberts I give my negro Charles; to my daughter Harriet I give my negro Lucy, and to each of them severally as soon as they arrive at lawful age or in case that the said Richard should decease before my said children or any of them arrive at lawful age they are then to enjoy the benefits of said negroes and to the true performets of all and every of the above clause and sentence I bind myself my heirs and under them the above mentioned Rachael O. Roberts, Thomas O. Roberts, Erasmus J. Roberts, John W. Roberts, Harriet Roberts, and to their heirs severally and I the said Richard the title of said negro against the claim or claims of any other person whatsoever will warrant and defend by these presents in witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this fourth day of January 1808.

(Signed)

Attested.

Richard Roberts

(Rachel Owen R. later married Geo. Henly)

-----

Estate of Richard Roberts

The books of the County Clerk of Washington County show no record of a will made by any Roberts in the late years of the 17 hundreds or in the first 25 or 30 years of the early 18 hundreds. However, there is an inventory of the estate of Richard Roberts dated July 23, 1819 and made by George Henly, Administrator. There are also two subsequent supplementary reports. This would suggest that Richard Roberts died in April or May of 1819.





Book 17 - page 257

The Heirs of Richard Roberts, deceased to Henderson Clark.

The indenture made this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord 1822 between Thomas O. Roberts, James Roberts, Rachael Henly, George Henly for himself and Wesley Roberts, he being guardian for the said Wesley Roberts, all of the County of Washington, and State of Tennessee, of the one part and Henderson Clark of the County and State aforesaid, of the other part witnesseth that the said Thomas O. Roberts, James Roberts, Rachael Henly and George Henly for himself and guardian for Wesley Roberts aforesaid for and in consideration of the sum of six hundred and fifty dollars---doth grant---a certain tract---on the south side of Nolachucky River---later owned by Richard Roberts, deceased-----

(Signed)

Thos. O. Roberts  
James Roberts  
Rachael Henly  
George Henly

Attested.

(Harriet apparently not living at this date.  
John Wesley shows as Wesley)

-----

Thos. Owen Roberts was an "Abolitionist". In 1834-35 he sold out his Washington County holdings, freed his slaves ("going bond" for them), and part of the "freedmen" went north into Illinois Territory with the family. Old "Aunt Hannah" was often referred to in the family. The rigors of life in a pioneer country took Thomas and Jane at too early an age. They lie in the Old Indian Presb. Church Cemetery---within the "Old Tom Ferris Farm", two miles east and one-half mile south of Lerna, Illinois (Near Charleston). The stones read--"Thomas O. Roberts - died Aug. 22, 1843 - 43 years, 2 months, 22 days." "Francis A. - son of T. O. and J. Roberts - aged 1 year, 5 months, 24 days." "Jane, wife of Thomas O. Roberts - died Sept. 3, 1845 - aged 46 years, 5 months, 24 days."

Book 20 - page 303

Thomas O. Roberts to Daniel Kenney

This indenture made this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty four---Thomas O. Roberts and Daniel Kenney of the County of Washington State of Tennessee---the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars---granted, bargained and sold---a certain tract---on the waters of little Limestone, one mile west of the town of Jonesborough containing two hundred and seventy five acres---and bounded as follows (to wit). Beginning at a stake in formerly Chester, now Greers, line then due north three hundred and twenty three poles to a black oak Allison's corner, then one west two hundred and near the great road thence due south crossing said road eighty eight poles and ten lengths to a black oak and cluster of sour woods thence due east one hundred and twenty nine poles and ten lengths to a stake one the grant line of the original tract, thence south two hundred and fifty seven poles to a stake near two dog woods in Wilson's line, now Kennedy's line, thence a direct course to the beginning containing two hundred seventy five acres-----





(Signed)

Attested.

Thomas O. Roberts

Book 20 - page 305

Power of Attorney to Sam B. Cunningham

State of Tennessee, Washington County. Know all men by these presents that Thomas O. Roberts of the County and State aforesaid, placing confidence in my trusty friend Sameul B. Cunningham of the same County and State due hereby nominate and appoint him my true and lawful attorney in fact to petition the County Court and likewise the General Assembly in my name and on my behalf to Emancipate three negroes (Viz) Henry, Hannah and her child, Ceasar, and to do perform everything in my name, everything necessary to carry into effect the emancipation of aforesaid and sign my name to all instruments of writing that may be necessary to perform the same and make such Emancipation good and valid in law. In witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal this 22nd day of September 1834.

(Signed)

Attested.

Thomas O. Roberts

-----

Book 20 - page 308

Thomas O. Roberts and Jane his wife to Samuel Greer

This indenture---this 9th day of August 1834---Thomas O. Roberts and Jane, his wife, formerly Jane Mitchell---for forty dollars---to Samuel Greer---a certain lot of ground---in the Township of Jonesborough

(Signed)

Attested.

Thomas O. Roberts

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Book 23 - page 106

Power of Attorney Thomas O. Roberts to Seth I. W. Lucky

Thomas O. Roberts of the County of Coles and State of Illinois ---attorney--- to execute a deed---that part of Richard Roberts my deceased father's estate--- the dower interest in my step mother, Nacky Roberts---this 16th day of May 1839.

(Signed)

Attested.

Thomas O. Roberts

-----



Book 23 - page 107

Thomas O. Roberts to Joseph West

This indenture made this 5th day of June 1839 by Thomas O. Roberts of the State of Illinois and Joseph West of the County of Washington, State of Tennessee--- for and in consideration of the sum of seventy five dollars to him in hand paid--- sold---add the right, title---to the estate of his deceased father Richard Roberts situated in Washington County known and designated as the dower interest of my step-mother, Nacky Roberts, supposed to contain eighty one acres-----

Attested.

(Signed)

Thomas O. Roberts

-----  
Information in regard to the Thomas Owen Roberts family comes partly from Alma Roberts Knight, from other family records, and from Cemetery Head Stones.

Thomas Owen Roberts, b. May 13, 1800, d. Aug. 22, 1843, m. 1818 to Jane Mitchell, b. Mar. 10, 1799, d. Sept. 3, 1845. They lived near Jonesboro, Tenn. until about 1835, then moved to region of the present Charleston, Illinois. There are three graves in the old Indian Presb. Church Cemetery.

Their Children:

1. James Erasmus, b. <sup>15 SEPT.</sup> Nov. 1820 (?), d. 1870 (?) (M.D.), m. (1) -----  
Had one daughter, Alice, m. (2) Cynthia Close

Their Children:

1. James m. LOUIE BOYD  
2. William m. and died  
3. RICHARD  
4. Lucy m. FRANK JACK

2. Robt. Mitchell, b. May 30, 1822, d. Dec. 8, 1894 in Minneapolis, m. Mary Ray Monfort, b. 1832, d. 1889. Were m. Aug. 28, 1850.

Their Children: who lived to Adulthood

Thomas Monfort

Alma Phebe

3. Ann E., b. <sup>4 FEB</sup> 1823, m. 1849 to Robt. Allison Mitchell, b. 1819, d. 1886, a first cousin.  
4. Sarah, m. a Paxton  
5. John Wesley, b. Mar. 20, 1825, d. Oct. 21, 1953, his widow, Caroline L., later m. Alex C. Mitchell.





6. Samuel, died young
7. Richard, m. Sarah Musgrave

Their Children:

Clara  
Lyda  
2 boys died young

8. Martha Jane, m. John Hogue and lived in Mattoon, Ill.
9. Thos. Tenbrooke, m. (1) Rachel Musgrave, (2) Anna Jack

Their Children:

- (1) Margaret m. ARTH. DUMONT
- (1) Anna m. ROBT. VAIL
- (2) Ruth m. TROLLA Mc MILLAN
- (2) Thos. T. Jr.

10. Frank (?), d. in infancy. This is probably the child shown on the gravestone in the Indian Presb. Church Cemetery as "Francis A., son of T. O. and J. Roberts, 1 year, 3 months, 23 days," but giving no date of birth.

Robt. Mitchell Roberts, b. May 30, 1822 near Jonesboro, Tenn., d. Dec. 8, 1894 in Minneapolis, m. Aug. 28, 1850 to Mary Ray Monfort, b. June 12, 1832 at Indianapolis, d. Jan. 16, 1889, Minneapolis.

Their Children:

1. Thos. Monfort, b. June 7, 1851, d. Sept. 2, 1928, m. Sept. 17, 1889 to Grace E. Fifield, b. June 27, 1864, d. Oct. 24, 1940.
2. Anna Watts, b. July 13, 1853, d. 7 months, 8 days, Mar. 20, 1854
3. Jennie, b. May 30, 1857, d. 7 months, 8 days, Feb. 6, 1858
4. Alma Phebe, b. May 7, 1859, d. Dec. 19<sup>19</sup> 1945 at Minneapolis, m. Sept. 21, 1880 to Chas. Wisner Knight, b. Feb. 20, 1846, d. Jan. 13, 1927 at Minneapolis.
5. James Erasmus, b. Mar. 1861, d. 8 months, 24 days. Dec. 1861

Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Roberts, Thomas M. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. W. Knight and their son, Ray Roberts Knight, moved from Hillsborough and Nokomis, Illinois to Minneapolis on June 19, 1885. T. M. Roberts and C. W. Knight had come a few weeks earlier to establish a Hardware Store, which later became the "T. M. Roberts Supply House", one of the earliest Mail Order Catalogue Companies.

See Knight Family





## MITCHELL FAMILY

A history of the family compiled by Capt. Harry E. Mitchell about 1907 suggests that "the Mitchells came from Craigend, Scotland. They left Scotland in 1637 owing to religious persecution and emigrated to Ireland (Ulster?). About 1682 they emigrated to Pennsylvania." The above is not thoroughly substantiated, but many of the names are in the records in Pennsylvania, some serving in the revolution.

The earliest records in our line in America which seem authenticated, show tax payments in Chester Co., Pa. by Adam Mitchell 1748-1753, and by Robert Mitchell 1748-1763. There appears to have been a sister Jane who married Samuel Doak. In 1753 a colony of families from the Nottingham Presb. Church of West Nottingham, Chester Co., Pa. moved to the North Eastern part of N. Carolina, Guilford Co. They were charter members of Buffalo Presb. Church, 1756. Robert's land grant was in the area of the present Guilford Court House, and Adam had land on No. Buffalo Creek. Of the couple noted below, Adam seems to have been the son of Robert Mitchell and Margaret-----  
Jennet, the daughter of Adam Mitchell and Mary- -----.

The next paragraph is from the Family Bible of Adam Mitchell, as furnished by Mrs. Rush Meyer, Charleston, Illinois.

Adam Mitchell m. (1) Jennet Mitchell Apr. 3, 1766. She d. Feb. 20, 1767 after the birth of Robt. m. (2) Elizabeth McMahon Oct. 31, 1769.

### His Children:

1. <u>Robt.</u>	b. Feb. 19, 1767	
2. <u>William</u>	b. Feb. 17, 1771	
3. <u>Peggy</u>	b. Sept. 5, 1772	
4. <u>John</u>	b. May 4, 1774	
5. <u>Adam</u>	b. April 3, 1776	
6. <u>Joseph</u>	b. Sept. 20, 1778	d. Oct. 25, 1779, by lightening.
7. <u>Ibby</u>	b. Dec. 15, 1780	
8. <u>Re beckah</u>	b. Jan. 6, 1783	
9. <u>Jennet</u>	b. April 29, 1784	
10. <u>Samuel</u>	b. Mar. 29, 1786	
11. <u>David</u>	b. Feb. 4, 1788	
12. <u>James</u>	b. Feb. 24, 1790	
13. <u>Hezekiah</u>	b. Mar. 10, 1792	

His will dated April 3, 1802, Probated Aug. 1802.

Robert Mitchell b. Feb. 19, 1767 in North Carolina (probably Greensboro). m. Eliz. Allison. He died in Tennessee in 1808.

### Their Children:

1. James A., b. Aug. 27, 1797 in Tennessee, d. Oct. 14, 1843, Tenn.  
m. Ester Collom.



Their Children: *JAS. A. MITCHELL ESTHER COLLAM*

- 1, Robt. A.
- 2, Jonathan C.
- 3, John Doak.
- 4 Sarah E.
- 5, Saml. H.
- 6, Luther C.
- 7, Jas. A.
- 8, Alex C.
- 9, Issac B.

All moved from Tennessee to the are of Charleston, Illinois.

- 2, Jane, b. Mar. 10, 1799, d. Sept. 3, 1843, m. Thos. Owen Roberts  
3 Eliabzeth, m. Wm. Collom, b. 1796, d. 1851, probably a brother of  
Esther.

-----  
See Roberts Family



JANE MITCHELL  
MAR. 10, 1799 - SEPT. 3, 1843  
M. - THOS. OWEN ROBERTS

NAME  
LIVED NEAR JONESBORO, TENN  
BORN AND NEAR PRESENT CHARLESTON  
S.C.

1204377

ROBT. MITCHELL

FATHER

BORN FEB. 19, 1767  
AT GREENSBORO, N.C. (?)  
DIED 1808.  
AT TENN.  
NEAR JONESBORO

MARRIED  
AT  
LIVED AT

BORN  
AT  
DIED  
AT

MOTHER

ELIZ. ALLISON

ADAM MITCHELL

FATHER

B  
AT  
MAR APR. 3, 1766  
AT  
LIVED AT

B  
AT  
D 2-20-1767 AT

MOTHER

JENNET MITCHELL

M. 2 ELIZ. M. MAHON  
OCT. 31, 1769

ROBT. MITCHELL

B  
D  
MAR  
LIVED AT

MARGARET

B  
D

B  
MAR.  
D

B  
MAR.  
D

ADAM MITCHELL

B  
D  
MAR.  
LIVED AT

B  
MAR.  
D

MARY

ABOVE ROBT. & ADAM  
MOVED FROM PENN.  
TO N. CAR. in 1753

B  
MAR.  
D

B  
D  
MAR  
LIVED AT

B  
MAR.  
D

FATHER

B  
AT  
L  
AT  
MAR  
AT  
LIVED AT

MOTHER

B  
AT  
D

B  
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LIVED AT

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